(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) 1. Three new exchanges have already been commissioned; and

2. The equipment for balance twenty two exchanges has already been ordered and supplies are expected by March, 1999.

Statement

District-wise list of New Telephone Exchanges to be opened in Assam during 1998-99

Sl. No.	Name of District		Station	Capacity	Type
1.	Barpeta		Mandia*	256P	C-DOT
2.	Bongaigaon		Baithamari	256P	C-DOT
3.	Cachar	1.	Bantarapur	256P	C-DOT
		2.	Dargakona	256P	C-DOT
		3.	Meharpur-Silchar*	2000	E-10B RLU
		4.	Sadin Bazar	256P	C-DOT
4.	Dhubri	1.	Chagolia	256P	C-DOT
		2.	Halakura	256P	C-DOT
		3.	Salkocha	256P	C-DOT
5.	Dibrugarh		Pithaguti	256P	C-DOT
6.	Golaghat		Dhekial	256P	C-DOT
7.	Hailakabdi	1.	Kalacherra	256P	C-DOT
		2.	Tantoo	256P	C-DOT
8.	Jorhat		RRL-Jorhat*	1000	E-10B RLU
9.	Kamrup	1.	Basistha Charali	3000	CCB-RSU
		2.	North Guwahati	256P	C-DOT
		3.	Satgaon	1000	OCB-RSU
10.	Karbi Anglong	1.	Baithalanshu	256P	C-DOT
		2.	Silonijan	256P	C-DOT
11.	Kokrajhar		Bhowraguri	256P	C-DOT
12.	Morigaon		Charaibahi	256P	C-DOT
13.	Nagaon		Kuthori	256P	C-DOT
14.	Sibsagar	1.	Geleky	256P	C-DOT
		2.	Machagarh	256P	C-DOT
15.	Sonitpur		Borsola	256P	C-DOT

*Already opened.

Foodgrains Production

*267. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the exact production figures of foodgrains during this year;

(b) the crop outlook for sugar, oilseeds and coarse grains; and

(c) the reasons for slower growth of agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The production of kharif foodgrains in the current year is estimated to be 101.03 million tonnes which is marginally lower than last years production. However, with the chances of better Rabi crops on account of favourable weather conditions, better reservoir situation, good pace of sowings and adequate availability of inputs, the prospects for overall food production during 1998-99 are brighter. The crop prospects for sugarcane and oilseeds are also better. However, the production of coarse grains is expected to be some what lower than the last year.

(c) The growth in agriculture in recent years has been generally satisfactory except during 1997-98 when it declined due to unfavourable climatic conditions over time in different parts of the country.

Non-official members in CVC

*268. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to appoint non-official members in the Central Vigilance Commission;

(b) if so, what qualifications have been laid down for the purpose;

(c) whether appointment of any non-official has been made; and

(d) if so, the details of the non-officials appointed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1998 (No. 15 of 1998) dated 25th August, 1998 as amended by the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 18 of 1998) dated 27th October, 1998 provides that the Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners shall be appointed from amongst persons:—

"(3) (a) who have been or are in an all-India service or in any civil service of the Union or in a civil post under the Union having knowledge and experience in the matters relating to vigilance, policy making and administration including police administration; and

(b) who have held office or are holding office in a corporation established by or under any Central Act or a Government company owned or controlled by the Central Government and persons who have expertise and experience in finance including insurance and banking, law, vigilance and investigations:

Provided that, from amongst the Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners, not more than three persons shall belong to the category of persons referred to either in clause (a) or in clause (b)".

(c) and (d) In terms of Clause 4 of the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1998 dated 25th August, 1998, the new Central Vigilance Commissioner who meets the eligibility criteria mentioned above has so far been appointed by the Central Government after following the procedure laid down therein.

Resolution at UN for Reducing Nuclear Danger

*269. DR. KARAN SINGH:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had introduced a resolution in the UN General Assembly in the first week of November this year on "reducing nuclear danger";

(b) if so, the details of the resolution; and

(c) response of the different nuclear powers thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At India's initiative a new resolution was introduced in the UN General Assembly in November this year. The resolution recalls that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to mankind. The hair trigger alert status of nuclear weapons, maintained by some countries, carries unacceptable risks of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons. The resolution further calls upon the five Nuclear-